

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Harlequin Ladybird



Invasive species alert for: *Harmonia axyridis* (image A) and varieties.

Common name(s): Harlequin Ladybird, Multicoloured Asian Ladybird, Halloween Ladybug.

Why the concern? This is an invasive species of ladybird that was found at two sites in the Republic of Ireland during November 2010. Previous records came from 2007 and 2009 in Northern Ireland (inset map). If the harlequin ladybird becomes established, it will threaten native invertebrate diversity, could impact on the fruit production and be a nuisance in buildings.

What does it look like? Variable in colour (yellow to orange to red) (image B) and number of spots (0-20) (images A, C and D). At 6 - 8 mm long, they tend to be larger and more domed than most native ladybirds, normally with reddish brown legs. They may also have a distinctive 'M' or 'W' marking on the pronotum (back of head) (image D). Juveniles have an orange stripe on each side of their body (image E).

Where might I see it? Entering houses in winter (image C) where they can aggregate on windowsills and walls (image B); on imported vegetables, fruit or plants; and in gardens, woodlands, agricultural or horticultural lands.

For more information or to report any sightings please email
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www.invasivespeciesireland.com

